



BROOKLYN TODAY

A Joint Publication of the City of Brooklyn and the Brooklyn School District

VOLUME FIVE, ISSUE EIGHTEEN

THIRD QUARTER 2004

FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR KEN PATTON



This November there will be an advisory levy for a proposed new fire station on land currently owned by the city on Memphis Avenue, between Westbrook Drive and Brookway Lane. Replacing old equipment and making room for a new ladder truck are essentials in keeping well prepared safety forces. Additional detailed information is in the city's Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR), which was sent to every household in Brooklyn in late July.

One thing that changes more than the weather is the natural gas and electric rates. Currently, the city has an agreement with NOPEC for supply of natural gas and electricity. We are constantly seeking ways to save money on the constant changing price of electric and gas rates. Information will be mailed to you as it becomes available. Please be a wise consumer and thoroughly check all bills and mailings. Please contact your local supplier for complete information.

The City of Brooklyn continues construction work on several in-house street repairs to many of our side streets. Our city crews do an excellent job saving us thousands of dollars in construction fees. Please drive carefully.

I would like to extend congratulations to Mike Magrey who graduated this summer, Summa Cum Laude from John Carroll University. Mike earned the prestigious Wall Street Journal Award from John Carroll University Department of Finance. Great job Mike!

Before the start of the upcoming school year, don't forget about Brooklyn Home Days 2004 taking place August 13th-15th. The front lawn of the Recreation Center will play host to exciting entertainment, delicious food and amusement rides for the kids! Rain or shine, it's a great way to get the entire family together and enjoy the weekend! See you there!

CITY FINANCIAL CONDITION AT MID-YEAR

Municipal Income Tax receipts as of the end of June were about \$259,000 less than last year. Collections from individual taxpayers were down about \$12,000 for a total of \$177,000. Withholding deposits from businesses on wages paid to their employees had declined about \$96,000 from \$5,339,000 to \$5,243,000. Collections on business profits had the largest decline of \$151,000. Last year at mid-year businesses had paid \$660,000 while the figure this year is \$509,000. One good development is that refunds are also down. Refunds are about \$62,000 less than last year. The net drop is about \$197,000. On a net basis, collections are 3.2% less than last year. Since income tax makes up about 60% of our total revenues, this is a significant concern. June collections were much improved over April and May. Inheritance Tax collections are about \$85,000 better than expected. Overall the revenues for the General Fund will fall about \$130,000 short of our original projection. Current projections peg revenues at \$13.439 million versus the \$13.571 million originally planned for.

Expenditures are tracking as predicted. The only increases over last year in the General Fund are in wages, health care and workers compensation. Wages rose 3.5% in 2004 and the city has a 27th pay day adding about \$340,000 to this expense this year. This additional pay day happens about once every 11 years. Health care costs are up 15% adding about \$150,000 to that expense. We had projected a \$1.2 million increase from last year's \$13.2 million expenditure level. That is where we are currently tracking. Cuts were made in employment levels for part time employees and in the recreation programs. These are performing at or below the levels planned for. Overtime has been reduced by about 2,800 hours reducing costs about \$92,000 compared to last year.

With a fund balance of over \$2.8 million for the General Fund, the city has more than sufficient funds to handle this gap funding. But on a long term basis we can not sustain current levels of expenditures on current revenues. If income tax collections do not improve in the second half of this year, the City must plan for reduced spending levels in 2005 and is making plans to do so.



FIRE SAFETY

.....FROM CHIEF PAUL DUCHOSLAV, DIVISION OF FIRE

As Chief of the Fire Department I am charged with the responsibility of providing adequate fire protection and emergency medical services to the residents of Brooklyn as well as the people that work, shop or just pass through the city. It is a different world we live in today as compared to several years ago, with different protection and response considerations.

This seemingly overwhelming task is made easier due to the efforts of the dedicated and aggressive professional fire fighter/paramedics that comprise the Brooklyn Fire Department. These personnel combined with continuing education and daily training ensures that not "adequate", but superior services are provided, and superior is the accepted standard for operations.

Yet I know that we can do better. We are limited in the present station house to prepare for and respond to emergencies. Current safety requirements and potential capabilities have outgrown the present facility. Disinfecting and decontamination areas are non-existent. I could go on but space for this article is limited. The "Popular Annual Financial Report" section entitled "New Fire Station Prime Concern" briefly describes the situation. If you have not received this report, a copy is available at City Hall.

During this November's election there will be an item on the ballot asking the citizens of Brooklyn to "approve" a 1.5 mil increase in real estate taxes to fund the construction of the needed facilities, a new aerial ladder truck, and fire/police pensions. City Council has the authority to make this increase without a vote of the people, but has decided to put this issue on the ballot and let the citizens elect or decline an increase in property taxes for this important safety concern.

Please give this issue careful consideration, and please vote. If you should have any questions call the Fire Department at 216-749-1212. If you have internet access visit the City of Brooklyn website at brooklynohio.gov. Thank you in advance for your continued support in helping us keep the City of Brooklyn one of the safest in Cuyahoga County.



WALL OF HONOR

A Wall of Honor is being displayed at Brooklyn City Hall for Brooklyn residents with family members currently serving in the United States Military. If you would like a picture and bio of your service person included please contact Tina Westfall at 635-4209.

A collection of travel size items for our troops is taking place now through Brooklyn Home Days. If you'd like to donate, bins will be located at the Senior Center, City Hall, the Recreation Center and our Home Days booth. A list of specific items will be available at these drop off points. Your generous donations will let our troops know how much we appreciate and support them. For more information please contact Karen DiRienzo at 216-749-7957.



POLICE NEWS

... From the Desk of Chief Jack Murphy

The Police Department now has a K-9 Unit. "Shadow" a one year old German Shepherd joined our department on August 3, 2003 and has been busy being certified in many Canine Specialty Courses for Law Enforcement duties. Patrolman Dan Meadows has been assigned to this specialty unit. Perhaps you have already noticed the Special K-9 decals on one of our cruisers. Patrolman Meadows and Shadow will be making visits at **Brooklyn's Home Days activities**. Stop by and visit our newest addition to the Police Department.

We are in the process of upgrading our Police Radio Dispatch Center. Plans are being finalized and scheduling of revamping will begin within the next month. There will be no interruption in service of course, but as always during construction our appearance will be in a "working disarray".

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The Building Department has increased property maintenance code enforcement for 2004. If you have received a property maintenance correction notice, and you are having difficulty making the required corrections, please contact the Building Department at 216-635-4203 promptly. The Building Department will advise you on corrections, provide names of registered contractors, provide information on possible funding sources, and grant reasonable time extensions for repairs. If you ignore a correction notice, you may receive a citation to Mayor's Court and a possible fine.

If you are aware of properties in need of maintenance, please contact the Building Department at 216-635-4203, or at the City of Brooklyn website: www.brooklynohio.gov.

Please contact the Building Department for information before hiring a contractor. All contractors must register with the city and obtain permits for your protection. It is much more difficult for the Building Department to assist you if an unregistered contractor performs unsatisfactory construction work repairs without permits at your home.



Look for the United Way tent at this year's Home Days filled with surprises for everyone. The employees of the City of Brooklyn are proud supporters of the United Way. Stop by our booth for prizes and refreshments.

SENIOR CENTER EVENTS



SNOW REMOVAL

Sign-up takes place from August 9th thru August 13 at the Senior Center between the hours of 9:30 AM and 3:30 PM. The cost for the program is \$10.00. There will be an additional charge of \$15.00 for sign-ups that take place after August 13. Requirements for all applicants are:

- Must be Brooklyn residents.
- Everyone living in the home must be 65 years of age or older.
- Own your own home.
- Address must be visible on your dwelling.
- No grass strip in the driveway.

ADULT EVENING PROGRAMS

Open to the Community at the Brooklyn Senior/Community Center

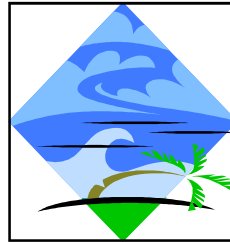
- Ceramic Classes will be from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM. The cost per class is \$2.00 plus the cost of your greenware (molds to be painted) and firing your greenware.
- One-on-one knitting instructions will take place every 2nd, 3rd and 4th Wednesday of every month from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. The cost of the class is \$5.00. For pre-registration and material list call 635-4222.
- "Donna Dewberry One Stroke Painting Technique" will be taught by certified instructor, Luise Easton. The cost of the class is \$20 which will include all the supplies that you need. For additional information including dates and times, call 635-4222.

BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Brooklyn Historical Society Museum at 4442 Ridge Road will host their annual Shunpike Shoppe sale on September 25th and 26th. We will be selling chances on a beautiful pink hand appliqued quilt. Tickets can also be purchased from our stand at Home Days in August where we will demonstrate weaving on a floor loom. In September we will offer herb bread, jams, fresh bakery, perennials, crafts, quilted items and more. For information call Barbara at 941-0160.

HISTORICAL FACT: Did you know that the Marsh Motors Company was incorporated in 1919 and purchased 17 acres of property at 4900 W. 73rd Street (Ridge Road by Lowe's). They built a total of six cars and went into receivership in June 1923.

Please take note that our mailing address has changed:
Brooklyn Historical Society Museum
4442 Ridge Rd.
PO Box 44422
Brooklyn, OH 44144-0422



PUBLIC AWARENESS STORM WATER INFORMATION

Once an area is developed and there is a larger volume of impervious surfaces (surfaces which do not allow for the infiltration of surface water, such as cement, blacktop, buildings), more water does not infiltrate the soil.

Imperviousness refers to the inability of a surface to allow water to percolate through. A sponge is pervious, a countertop is impervious, cardboard is somewhere in between. Sandy soils are pervious, asphalt is not. On an impervious surface, water is forced to travel downhill until it finds a place it can sink into soil or enter a wetland. As it travels or runs off these impervious areas, water can pick up potentially toxic substances (like oil or fertilizer) and carry these materials to the sources of our water.

The important thing to know is what percentage of your watershed is covered by impervious surfaces. These include roads, parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, rooftops, patios, pools and severely compacted soils (usually from development activities like grading, excavation and landscaping). You may have noticed that the first three items and by far the largest contributors to impervious surface area in almost any community are surfaces built for our automobiles.

In a natural landscape, the maximum amount of runoff occurs after the beginning of a storm or major melt. As impervious surface area increases, the storm and melt water coming off of them increase velocity, quantity, temperature and pollution load. Any one of these attributes contributes to the degradation of natural hydrology and water quality. Noticeable degradation to water bodies begins when the watershed reaches 10-20% imperviousness.

RUBBISH SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING HOLIDAYS



Garbage day will be one day late the week of September 6-10 because of Labor Day. Garbage pick up will also be one day late the week of October 11-15 due to Columbus Day on October 11.



BROOKLYN HOME DAYS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13TH...5:45 PM -11:00 PM
SATURDAY, AUGUST 14TH...1:00 PM-11:00 PM
SUNDAY, AUGUST 15TH...2:00 PM-9:00 PM

Three days of family entertainment all happening in front of the Brooklyn Recreation Center across from City Hall!

Featuring musical entertainment all weekend long from: The Casuals, Avenue Five, Nitelites, Decade, Shout and Victory Boulevard.

Friday, August 13th

5:45 PM Opening ceremonies featuring the Brooklyn High School Band and Mayor Kenneth Patton's opening remarks.
 6:00 PM Dedication Ceremony honoring former Mayor John M. Coyne.
 6-8:00 PM Car Show Mayor's Choice Award.

Saturday, August 14th

1:30 PM Children's games and activities will take place beginning at 1:30 PM at the Funfabulous Kids Tent located on the west lawn area. Children's games and activities which include: candy scramble, money scramble, watermelon eating contest, water Olympics, egg and balloon toss, pie eating contest, limbo contest, hula hoop contest and a special appearance by Sparkles the Clown at 5:30 PM.
 2:00 PM Adult Bingo at the Senior Center.

Bocci Ball Tournament: Advance registration is required. Stop by the Recreation or Senior Center to register your team no later than August 6th. Tournament takes place on Saturday and Sunday.

Sunday, August 15th:

3:00 PM Water Show is free and open to the public at the Natatorium.

FOOD DRIVE:

Drop off a non-perishable food item at the City of Brooklyn's booth to benefit *Brookside Hunger Center* and receive a token of appreciation.

PARKING BAN:

Please remember that parking will be prohibited in the St. Thomas More parking lot on Saturday, August 14th from **3:00 PM–5:30 PM** and at St. Elias all day Saturday. We ask that you cooperate with this request and strictly adhere to this policy.

Stop by the City of Brooklyn's booth during Home Days to pick up your complete schedule of events.



City of Brooklyn
Mayor Kenneth E. Patton
7619 Memphis Avenue
Brooklyn, OH 44144-2197



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In This Issue...

Important news from the Mayor's Office and the Brooklyn School System!



BROOKLYN HOME DAYS

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 15TH...2:00 PM-9:00 PM

Three days of fun for the entire family! Great food, entertainment, and plenty of rides and games for kids of all ages. It's all happening in front of the Brooklyn Recreation Center across from City Hall.

- ◆ Special recognition to the following businesses who have generously agreed to sponsor a variety of our Home Days events!

**RIDGE PARK SQUARE...MAX & ERMA'S...CLEAR CHANNEL
BAKER VEHICLE...GIANT EAGLE...PEPSI COLA GENERAL BOTTLERS, INC**

Areway, Inc.
McDonald's at Ridge Park Square
The Plain Dealer Publishing Company
Memphis Kiddie Park/Drive-In/Miniature Golf
Witwer Air Service
Kassouf Construction Company
Plastic Platers, Inc.
Ohio Pool Equipment & Supply

Ferrous Metal Processing
Greg Frey Insurance
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Astro Supply
Bed Bath & Beyond
Perkins Restaurant
B.A. Sweetie
SBC

(SPONSORS LISTED AS OF PRINT DATE)